

05-311

Sandralyn Bailey

From: gloriagarvin@aol.com
 Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2006 5:38 PM
 To: Michael Copps
 Cc: Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; KUMMET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

2/12/06

To: Michael Copps, Federal Communications Commission
 CC: Jonathan Adelstein, Deborah Tate

From: Gloria E. Garvin, PhD
 Producer, Pasadena MoveON Looks at the Issues
 (310) 592-4802
 7149 Hidden Pine Drive
 San Gabriel, CA 91775
 gloriagarvin@aol.com

ORIGINAL

Re: "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311

I, along with co-producer Conchita Thornton-Maruisch, have produced a TV NewsMagazine segment entitled "Saving Public Access Television." It's a 28:30 minute show featuring Michael Overing, professor of law and media at the Annenberg School for Communication and Alex Nogales, CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition. We would like to submit the DVD of this show for your consideration re: 05- 311. Please let me know the best address to send it to and we will overnight it tomorrow (2/13/06) in time to be included as commentary for the upcoming FCC rulemaking meeting.

I work through Pasadena Community Network, our local public access station, and along with a great team of volunteers, we produce a weekly TV NewsMagazine entitled Pasadena MoveON Looks at the Issues. We "bicycle" our 28:30 minute shows out to other public access stations across the United States, reaching a potential audience of several million people. We work on a shoestring budget and yet are able to produce and distribute high quality shows thanks to the public access television system.

My comments below are in regard to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising." My personal experience as a producer is that public access has given my group the opportunity to create a high-quality TV show without requiring a huge budget. I along with other producers could not do what we are doing without local franchising which supports local public access stations. We are the life-blood of the community; local franchising is extremely important to all local cities and communities across the U.S. Local franchises allow for citizens such as myself to have some input into the media mix. Support for public access stations ensures that our media is not completely controlled by large corporations and that there remains a small vestige of free speech television. It's vitally important for local citizens and citizen groups to have some control over at least this aspect of telecommunications and media in our community. No local producers that I'm aware of have big budgets to work with, but what we lack in funds, we make up for in a passionate commitment to get our message out. We could not do this without local franchises supporting public access stations. Telecommunications companies must be accountable to the needs of consumers and we are the consumers as well as the producers. Telecommunications companies must give back to the community for the use of public airwaves. Without local franchises, communities will be stripped of PEG TV, but also will be left without an adequate way to ensure telecommunication companies charge reasonable rates, respond to customer complaints, and provide universal service.

As a producer and supporter of Public Access TV in Pasadena, CA, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Gloria E. Garvin, PhD

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